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# The Early Church an Example

MODEL PRIMITIVE

## Reality, Prosperity, Spirituality

and of one soul: neither said common." Acts 4:32.

woman. They were perfect physically, mentally, and spiritually, for God made them in His own image. And when they were made, he looked upon them and said they were "very good." They were a very beautiful type of Christ and the

Church of God.

It may be well to consider the material of which the early Church was composed when it first came into existence. About Spenherd.

position and it became necessasition that he had occupied reselected one to fill the position tongue, wherein we vacated by him, and the Church born?" Acts 2:2-8.

No doubt, the clouds of discouragement hung heavy over the heads of the humble few in the foot prints of their Lord. Some possibly said, "Well, we and decision of character, who had about as well quit for we had hoped that he would con- in order to obey it. They were that he said he would build we thought would be under his immediate supervision and control, but now he has gone and the treasury has gone to the bad, so it looks as though we can never survive the trouble shock." We hear another speak and he says, "Don't you remember that he said it is expedient for you that I go away for if I go not away the Comforter will more than that the inspired not come, but if I go, I will send apostles and those associated Him! how mysteriously He with them, filled with the appeared to us on many oc- mighty fires of Pentecost, would casions, and last of all out at Bethany when He lifted up His hands and blessed us all and prised at the early historic stuwas taken up from us: how dent. he said that we should receive

"And the multitude of them power after the Holy Ghost that believed were of one heart was come upon us, and that we should be witnesses unto any of them that ought of the him in Jerusalem, Judea, things which he possessed was Samaria and to the uttermost his own; but they had all things parts of the earth? Surely if we can complete the organi-In the beginning God made zation and readjust everything one perfect man and one perfect in divine order, God will manifest His approval, and from these days of trouble and heart aches, the great Church will rise and shine to a lost world, and she shall go forth with great power to carry out the commission of her ascended Lord."

Well, the conference is on and hurch.

In order that we may more smoothly. No contention! Affully realize something of what ter earnest prayers, one was sethe Church ought to be, we will lected to fill the position vacated look at the picture of the early by Judas. Other matters of Church, as it appears in the importance might have been above text and endeavor to considered. Everything was in discover some of the elements order, all in one accord, waiting which ought to characterize the for the fulfilment of the promise. They "were continually in the temple praising and blessing God.

"And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushone hundred and twenty mem- ing mighty wind, and it filled all bers had been called by our the house where they were sit-Lord (who said He would build ting, And there appeared unto His Church) in person from them cloven tongues like as of among the sheep that He called fire, and it sat upon each of His own, who knew His voice, them. And they were all filled and followed him as the true with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as Judas betrayed his Lord and the Spirit gave them utterance. by this awful sin vacated his And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of ary to select one to fill the every nation under heaven. Now vacancy. We will observe that when this was noised abroad, only Judas fell as an individual the multitude came together, man, as a result of his indi- and were confounded, because vidual transgression; but the po- that every man heard them speak in his own language. And mained the same and untouched they were all amazed and marby his awful failure; and all that velled, saying one to another was necessary was for him to go Behold, are not all these which on to his own place. Then the speak Galileans? And how Church met in conference and hear we every man in our own

This miraculous expression drew the multitudes together There were thousands of devout Jews assembled in Jerusalem who had been following closely for the feast of Pentecost. They were men of tender consciences needed only to know the truth tinue with us, and the Church the pick and flowers of that whole generation of Jews, the ripest fruits of the good tree planted by Moses and nourished by the prophets of Israel. Of this quality was the majority of Peter's congregation to whom he preached that memorable sermon when three thousand were added to their members.

With such material to begin with, we should expect nothing mould them into a MODEL CHURCH; and we are not sur-

fastly in the apostles' doctrine about it. We can not pray too should look back for the princi- and practices of the fear came upon every soul: and the union of the people of God. done by the apostles. And all And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.' Acts 2:42-47.

We find in this a model for all subsequent imitation. To continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine is still the highest attainments of the Church of God. And to continue steadfastly in fellowship of the apostles is to have continuous fellowship with God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ; and be in harmony with all the customs, principles, and practices of the early Church. To be steadfast in the breaking of bread and in prayer, is that we remember His body broken for us and the Church is the purchase of His blood, and that prayer is one of the most essential duties in the christian life. The life of prayer is the successful life. The prayerless life is barren and unsuccessful.

"And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the ings which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. Neither was there any among them that lacked; for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, and laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had

need." Acts 4:32-35. Such a Church, filled with life and power and victory, making use of this wonderful opportunity would of course experience a rapid growth in members, for its high qualities and marvelous spiritual power and genuine principles would inevitably draw to it the true, honest hearted people in its reach. The early Church grew with marvelous rapidity. So there were added five thousand men besides women and children, and if the women and children maintained anything like the ratio that they do in modern times, the whole number must have been at least ten thousand. It was at this stage of progress and development of the Primitive Church that the words of the text were recorded. The multitude were of "one heart and one soul."

#### Model of Union

among the true children of God.

of bread, and in prayers And forth every effort to bring about apostles' doctrine and practice. many wonders and signs were The Church of God was designed to bring the people of that believed were together, and God together in unity rather had all things common; And than to divide them. Surely sold their possessions and every true child of God could goods, and parted them to all agree on the apostles' doctrine men, as every man had need. or teachings and leave off our questions that are to no profit; and come together in love and fellowship and have all things common. I verily believe that every honest soul earnestly desires the fulfilment of our Savior's prayer in behalf of the union of all them that believe on Him. Have we forgotten that this prayer was answered at one time to the very letter? Here in the Primitive Church was a mighty host of men, women and children who were filled with the Holy Ghost of whom the inspired writer says "were of one heart and one soul," and so much so that not one of them counted anything which he posessed as his own. Not one was allowed to lack anything needful, though it required the sale of houses and lands on the part of some to supply the needs of others. Is not this the model of union? Can we have any higher aspirations than to struggle for the same unity that Primitive characterized the Church.

> not only a model of unity but in it we find God's method of union, as all other churches were expected to imitate this one established at Jerusalem, and was to be one with her as she was considered the mother Church. Now if proper unity is brought about, it must be done by the uniting on the principles and practices, customs and methods of the early Church. The plain doctrine or teaching of the apostles sufficient for the basis of unity. No man-made creeds or confession of faith, but the pure word of God. Rituals, manuals, diciplines, or any formulated principles of unity will never serve the purpose for the reason that if it does not contain the full gospel. It is not enough. If it should contain more it is too much; if it should contain just the same we don't need it. Therefore, we need only the inspired word of God and a real revivat of apostolic doctrine, teaching, and practice. What a mighty force the church would be if it could be said today that they are of "one heart and one soul" and that they have "all things common." She would once again shake the world for Christ. It is very noticeable that there is more of an awakening along this line. Surely the Spirit of the Lord is moving to bring his true children together in one.

The Primitive Church was

There has been great conventions called for the purpose of affecting a unity between the people of God. They have discussed and endeavored to formulate a basis of unity but Much has been said and writ- the results have been almost ten on the subject of unity invariably unsatisfactory. They have looked forward to some and indeed there is much to be imaginary institution in which

The work of the early Church moved on with marvelous rapidity; everything apparently in harmony; the Lord working with them in a marvelous way. Finally the first apparent dissension arose tween the Greecians and Hebrews, (the former being the foreign born Jews) that their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. This apparently was a fine opportunity for a general church row. The Greecian Jews could have said, because we are foreign born and speak Greek, you fellows do not have a proper feeling toward us. The home born Hebrews could easily have said we are greatly in the majority and we will run things to suit ourselves. The apostles could have got ruffled and said, our honesty is reflected on, this contention is without foundation, and is an insult to the dignity of the church to bring us in question in any such a manner. This would possibly have been according to modern practice in some parts of the world, but it was not in this MODEL CHURCH. They were clothed with humility and filled with divine love, and proceeded to set an example. This the church of all ages would have done well to follow. Notice the proceedings and how this

dissension was settled in love. The apostles called a multitude together and said, "wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word." Acts 6:3-4. This saying pleased the whole multitude, and they proceeded with the selection. It would be well to observe that the congregation, had the privilege of making the selection according to the qualifications as outlined by the apostles. The Hebrews being greatly in the majority could have selected the entire seven men, but a very noticeable feature in this is that there was not a Hebrew or a home born Jew in the whole seven; every one were Greeks; and one of them was not a Jew by blood at all; but a Proselyte who had only resided in the Greek City of Antioch. The whole seven were selected from the ranks of the minority, no doubt for the purpose of showing their generosity by covering the whole matter with the mantel of perfect love, in order that the church might proceed on its mission to bless

If the same course of procedure could be pursued in many cases in these latter days, the little frictions that arise would soon be covered with a deluge of love and power and peace and good will would prevail. We should not look forward to some imaginary institution wherein all the saints may unite, but look back to the Primitive Church, or that ideal institution wherein peace and "And they continued stead- said. We can not talk too much we could all agree, but we love prevailed. The principles

and fellowship, and in breaking much for it. We should put ple or basis of unity to wit: the Church proved a success in that age: the same if put in successful operation would do the same in this age.

In the course of time one of the greatest virtues of the early Church became a source of temptation and sin to two of its weak members. One day while Peter was presiding at a meeting Brother Ananias came in and walked up and laid his money down, purporting to be the price of some land that he had sold for the benefit of the poor. If the disciples at that age had been as demonstrative as they are in some modern congregations, there would have been a general and very hearty clapping of hands, but instead of this we imagine that we can see a frown settle down on Peter's brow and he said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? it remained was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God." Acts 5:3-4.

Peter had no more than spoken these words until Ananias fell over in the floor a dead man. And Peter called out to some young men in the congregation to come forward and wrap their robes around him and take him out and bury him. From the reading he must have been buried by the time he got cold. The meeting went on for about three hours, and finally Sapphira, his wife, made her appearance in the congregation, not knowing what had happened. 'And Peter answered unto her, tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, how is it that you have agreed together tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things." Acts 5:8-11.

What awful work this was; and how quickly done. This was the work of the great head of the church, who thus exercised discipline in His Church. In order to show to those whom He afterward intrusted, the promptness with which these awful sins must be rebuked. This is a divine intimation on the subject of strict discipline. Many today are keeping the ungodly in the church, under the vain delusion that they are exercising long forbearance and tender mercy, or under the idle impression that they have a better hope of saving a wicked corrupt man in the church than if they cast him out. God knows better than we do about how to save wicked men. God in speaking through the mouth of the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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We invite all the workers to send us reports of interest from the battle field. If nothing else a postal card telling where you are this week.

Heip us make the Evangel a medium of information as well as a spiritual

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#### OUR GOD IS MARCHING ON

Mrs. Bertie Harrison

has been blessing my soul, is, oh God let me tell to the dear discouraged saints of God everywhere what I feel deep down in my heart.

If there ever was a time when we had a right to lift our hearts in adoration and praise to Him, it is No time, no reason for God's saints to hang their heads in despair. God is marching on. Are we march ing and keeping step with Him?

We sometimes wonder why some of God's children have so much more joy and victory than others. This reminds me of the story of a man who took his large family of children out for a stroll one day. As he left the house he filled his pockets peanuts and oth candies. or goodies, so that occasionally he might please them with a little gift. When he was ready to bring forth the first installment of goodies, he looked about for the children and some were loitering carelessly along others picking up pebbles and gathering flowers by the wayside, but two of them were clinging close to his side. The father had no time to so he handed out the goodies to those nearest him. Perhaps the ones who were loitering by the wayside never knew what they missed them. I know that even now you see the point. Praise God!

God is taking us for a stroll down through this beautiful world that he has made. He has wonderful things hidden away for us. Do we want to enjoy them? Then at this critical time in the Church of God we need to nestle close to His side. No time to loiter by the wayside to look at our brothers' and sisters' faults; no time to look at conditions or sur roundings; no time to discuss mat ters with one another, because Fath er will walk on ahead of us, as He has no time to lose.

God is marching on, bless His nam and He wants us to march with Him keeping close to His side, so as He hands out His blessings we may be there to accept them. Oh hallelujah The joy bells are ringing in my soul because I have hurried up a little closer to His side this morning.

Oh how we've been loitering care lessly along the way. How been picking pebbles and gathering flowers by the wayside in some way or other. And now God is allowing us to see that we must hurry up, that we must nestle close to His side to obtain the wonderful things he has in store for us. He is grieved as He looks back at His children and sees how careless we are and how we are allowing the glittering things of this world to attract our attention away from Him, and He is allowing a mighty avalanche of trouble to swoop down upon us to hurry us up to the Father's side.

We have been greatly impressed lately with Ezekiels' vision of the holy waters. (Ezek. 47.) We notice that all down through the dark ages as our Lord was measuring the first thousand cubits some of the dear ones marched right along with Him and when He was ready to lead them out into the water up to the ankles, they were right by His side ready to go: so Martin Luther stepped

My prayer this morning as God of salvation even up to the ankles God was marching on and those who accepted this great truth and stayed close to His side, as he measured another thousand cubits were ready to step right into deeper water to the knees; and John Wesley came bringing to us the won-derful truth of sanctification. But oh, it was a small crowd. The major ity were loitering by the wayside playing with the glittering things of this world until they were so far away that the still small voice of ou Lord could not be heard as He said "This is the way, walk ye in it." So only a few were ready to enter in, but the dear Lord went steadily on measuring the next thousand cubits.

> "Deeper yet, deeper yet into the crimson flood. deeper yet precious blood.

Oh, hallelujah!

children had marched right along by the Father, wading out a little deeper until the water had reached the loins. and we had the message sent to us from far and near that the Holy Ghost was being poured out upon the saints of God as on the day of Penthings, the glory, the power, the joy and peace this great river of salva-tion holds for us. But no stopping. Our God goes right on measuring another thousand cubits. We are in the midst of it today. This is the last thousand cubits. Where are we found? Are we keeping step? Dear ones, as we launch out into the deep, waters to swim in, waters that cannot be passed over; I can just immagine that those who have been true and have marched by His side, keeping step with him along the way through tempest and storm, through sunshine and shade; those who have left all to follow Him, have been mis understood in order to go marching on by His side. Oh I am sure that away out here in the river something wonderful will happen. Have we waded out, or are we carelessly playing with the toys that Satan has placed by the wayside in order to attract our mind and attention from following on? Satan is bringing in everything he possibly can to throw us off the track and keep us from nestling closer to His side. He know

his time is short. The world with all its persecutions unfriendliness and misunderstanding have been used as a weapon to win us away from God; and the last grea effort comes through the church her self; and the saints of God are not being used to get our minds and hearts off our precious Lord as He goes steadily measuring on. But some of us are going to keep our eyes or Jesus, and are going to march on with Him, swimming out into the great deep, ever ready for the great bles ings He has in store for His chil dren; and some day by His help and through His grace we will reign with Him. Hallelujah!

Dear ones, where are we this morn ing? Let me ask again, are we keeping step with Him as he continues to measure or are we stopping to look at or talk about our brothers and out from the dakness and began to sisters who are pulling off from the preach justification by faith. Oh how church, If we don't mind we'll lose great to be out in the great river step with Him, as we stop to glance

around at them to see what they are doing. God demands that we love one another and we must be careful lest a root of bitterness spring

up in our hearts and defile us. God says His Church is to be a church without spot or wrinkle and we must not flinch or waver as He purges it to make it such.

We fear that the great Church of God has in a great measure lost sight of the promise, "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (He didn't say all our wants). They have been anxious and troubled about many things: and like Martha looking after and fretting about the temporal side of His great work, running in debt to supply their wants. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

We believe the Lord is showing Church today that we are to sit at His feet like Mary, and look to Him again as we did in the beginning of this great latter rain out-pouring, to supply all our needs. The cattle upon a thousand hills belong to Him. and as we go down and sit feet as we should, these cattle will be turned over to us, to carry on the great work God has for us to do.

I am glad that the dear, old Evan gel is no longer filled with drives for money, and I hope as we go down on our faces before the Lord and wait upon Him, that He will touch hearts here and there to meet the demands that are upon the church today. We are praying that while many mistakes have been made and the church must meet her obligations, will lay it on the hearts of the saints to help in correcting these mistakes, and that in the future we will wait on the Lord until He sends in the money to supply our needs.

Away back in the beginning this latter rain out-pouring we did trust God for everything, God wonderfully supplied the needs and the power of God fell in a marvelous People were swept into His kingdom everywere, and the signs followed in a way that we fail to see now. And men and women are crying, "Oh that I had the victory that I once had."

We have loitered by the wayside and have been playing with the glittering things of this world, trying to make an impression on the world to win them. What we need is to let the world see the real power of God and a clean life behind it, then they will not care whether or not we have a tent or an arbor in which worship, and many will be glad to fall at His feet and follow on to

We believe that the measuring of this last thousand cubits will bring us into the place where the gifts will be restored; and He is purging out His Church so that He may find those who will stand the test and be low and humble enough that He can trust them with the gifts.

For years we have been praying for the gifts of the Spirit and now as we are nearing the time when we can almost get a glimpse of these gifts, will we draw back and become discouraged, (because of the mistakes and failure of some of the saints of and fail to get the great things God holds for us?

We remember how, when the children of Israel were almost ready to cross over into the land of Canaan, they murmured and complained and vere turned back to years of wanderings in the wilderness, and only two who left Egypt were permitted to enter Cannan. Oh I want to stand still in the midst of confusion

and see the salvation of our Lord. I remember one time I was attending a Camp meeting at Homestead, us to give to them that ask. Now, are Pa. and a question of great impor-tance came up, a very hot debate followed and some harsh words were uttered by those who were leaders. I was new in the way and didn't realize that God's baptized children could possibly feel that way, so I became disgusted and started to leave the tent. When I reached the rear of the tent the Lord whispered to me, "Go back." I obeyed, thank God, (It always pays to obey) and after God had stilled the tempest He came forth in a most wonderful convincing way, and I saw things that have never left me and have helped to establish me in the way. Had I walked out and gone off before I saw God's workings I would have failed to see His wonderful power manifested.

I believe God is whispering those who are being disgusted and confused today (by the failure of some of the heads of the church), "Go back, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord." He says that no flesh shall glory in His presence and all flesh must be brought down that His spirit may come forth in mighty power.

and He will lead us on to great vic

"My sheep know my voice and day by day, They abide in the fold and go not

astray;

love me because I have made them my choice,

they follow My call, for My sheep know my voice."

### NOTICE

As I have been released from the pastoral charge at Sikeston, Mo., I am entering into evangelistic work, and the people will support the gospel.

I stand for the Church of God as heretofore without any change. C. E. Banks, Route 1, Box 91. Sikeston, Mo.

#### REQUESTS

Tallula Vaughn, Columbia, S. C., requests prayer that the Lord will heal her side. She means to stand on His promises.

Willie Yarbrough, Wedowee, Ala R. 1, requests prayer that he three others may receive the Holy

Mrs. C. W. Lynch, Winder, Ga., R. 3 requests prayer that she may received the Holy Ghost, and healed of lung trouble, also pray for her family.

Mrs. S. L. Evans, Demorest, Ga., re quests prayer for her health to be restored, for her son who has been gone to be saved and return. Also for her husband and his children to be saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost.

Mrs. J. W. Johnson, Summerset, Miss. requests prayer that God will heal her body and that she will stay humble and do the Lord's will.

Lee Carter, Grace, Tenn., requests prayer to be saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost; that he may be a worker for jost souls.

Mary Atterbery, Statsboro, Ga., re quests prayer to be healed of a sore

Mrs. Britton Saylor, West Frankfert Ill., requests that the saints of God every where pray that her husband

Metty C. Haves, Hamer, S. C., R. 2 box 49, requests prayer that she may be healed and stand true to God, and that she may be a blessing in the Sunday school in leading the children in the paths of

Mrs. Laura Clevenger, Warfield, Ky., requests prayer that her husband and daughter may be convicted and converted, and her home become a house of prayer.

Lizzie Belle Greenlee, Eupora, Miss. requests every saint to pray that she be healed of pellagra, and that she may grow stronger and overcome temptation. Also pray for her son and husband to be saved.

#### The Blessedness of Giv ing

Dear Saints Everywhere-Greetings in Jesus' Dear Name:

I am still praising God this morn ing for a full and free salvation and for the precious Holy Ghost that still abides. Bless His Holy name. I want to do more for my blessed Savior every day. He has done so much

Dear saints, when I read the spec ial number of the Evangel and saw how the orphans home was in need it put a longing in my heart to do something for them. I can't do any thing but pray and send offerings but I aim to do all I can in that line I thank God for giving me that priv ilege. Bless his name.

I think every member of Church of God should send at least \$1.00 to the orphans home. They would not miss it after it was gone and it would mean so much to them. The Lord says, "freely we have received, freely give." it would be pleasing to God to help those that are in need. Read 2 Cor 7:9. Also Matt. 5: 42. Here it tells we doing our duty?

We don't know how many children that we might save if each one of us would do our best and not one wait for another, but all be of the same mind. Let's keep the Church of God home up and enlarge it so as to take the many children who have to be turned away on account of finance. I believe it is no more than our duty to do this. Praise God.

I believe every child of God has work to do but I don't think we can all be preachers. We know it takes all kinds of workers to keep any kind of business going and it is the same way with God's work. I am willing to take any part of the work that He wants me to do. I want to do as Paul said in Phil. 3:14. "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." I don't want to have my talent buried when the Lord comes, but get gain while He tarries Praise His name.

Another duty most of us havn't taken up is helping the missionaries We should each pay a per cent of each dollar we get to the missionaries and cause the work to go or among the heathen.

Husband and I are paying five per cent to that work and pay tithes too. The Lord sure blesses We had never given anything to the work of the missionaries till the Lord chastened us with the illness of our baby. He took the whooping cough and was awfully We then began to see that we had failed the Lord. We then promised Him we would pay five per cent to the missionaries, and praise God he healed our baby instantly. Bless His name. He has healed our bildrow are more times and her or hildrow are more times and her or hildrow are more times. children so many times and has also healed us. We can't praise Him enough or do enough for Him. We desire the prayers of the saints everywhere that we will hold out faithfully and that we will rear our two bables up in the way the Lord two babies up in the way the Lord would have us to.

Your sister in Christ. Mrs. J. R. Teague, Plainview, Tex.

#### A LETTER OF CONFESSION

(Printed by request of T. A. Richard.)

> Kentwood, La. Sept. 12. 1923.

F. J. Lee,

Cleveland, Tenn. Dear Brother:

I guess you will be somewhat surprised to get this letter from me, but I feel like I owe you a whole lot, and hardly know how will ask you to forgive me for my disloyalty to the Church of God, and to you. I have treated you bad. I have ignored your good letters, and I have misled a lot of folks. But, Brother Lee, I know you will forgive me. I it, and I prayed days and nights over the matter; and after 1 wrote you that last letter my heart began to break. I couldn't sleep at night, and my wife would ask me many times if I was sick. If I was the only one who had to suffer over this it wouldn't be so bad; but I am back tracking, myself, and looking the folks in the face and telling them I have misled them.

Some have told me that they would never have confidence in me any more, and some have said they had more than they ever had. I can't help whether any one has or not, I must deliver my soul and tell them that I have misled them, and then they will have to do the rest.

Some may say that I am doing this to hold my job; but I am willing, if you want me to, to even surrender my credentials, give up my position as State Overseer, walk out and act as a lay member in the Church of God. As David said, "I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness."

I know some will say, he has got under the same influence that the ten elders are under. I guess I am, and hope I will stay under it enough that when plain facts and figures present them-Make us of one heart and one mind, selves I can take them for what they are worth. I have been a member of the Church of God for about ten years, and never was disloyal to it before till this year, when I ought to have been truer than ever before. Some will say I have turned traitor. I sure did when I signed that "Declaration," and the ones that got it up did the same. But I don't blame any one for this but All the depths of love express, myself. I love Brother Tom- All the heights of holiness. linson, and always will, but I can never travel with him again unless he will make the crooked straight. So I hope that every one who has made the mistake | Show how true believers die.

that I have made, will come clean with the thing.

Brother Payne came to the State of Louisana and we didn't. aim to let him in our churches. One of the brethren locked the door of the Kentwood church, and said to not let in any one who was standing with the ten elders. But I went down and turned him in. He preached three sermons and we all enjoyed them. He never mentioned to start in to pay you. But I a division, but asked me if I would let him explain some things. After several hours of reading and praying, I agreed to do this. All was done in a good loving spirit, and he just produced facts, and did it right. We then said we would accept have been sincere in every bit of them. He never did ask any one to change; but we have a lot of good folks who want to do right, and go on with the Church of God.

> I have forsaken all for the Church of God, and mean to remain loyal to it the rest of my life. I would love for every one who will forgive me of this act to write me and say so. I have written several letters to friends against the church, or the ten elders, but I know they will not hold this against me.

> I will say again, pray for me that I will not leave a stone not turned. I have suffered too much over this to fail to make it right, and I want the whole thing under the blood.

May God bless you all. Thy brother under the Blood, T. A. Richard.

#### Of One Heart and One Mind

Jesus, Lord, we look to thee; Let us in Thy name agree; Show Thyself the Prince of peace; Bid our jars forever cease.

By Thy reconciling love, Every stumbling-block remove; Each to each unite, endear, Come, and spread thy banner here.

Courteous, piteous and kind; Lowly, meek, in thought and word, Altogether like our Lord.

Let us for each other care, Each the other's burden bear: To Thy Church the pattern give, Show how true believers live.

Free from anger and from pride, Let us thus in God abide;

To the family above: On the wings of angels fly,

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Post Office ...... State ......

## General Overseer

F. J. LEE

## **EVANGEL**

ially gospel news. The reason that the Church of God paper was named Evangel is because it was to be a medium of carrying the good news to the thousands. It has proved itself faithful on this line, and has announced to the many hungry souls the uttermost, that Jesus saves to even soul and body. Many who have almost given up in despair have taken new courage after receiving the good news brought by the Evangel. while reading the messages in the Many have been healed by applying the paper to their body. Many have been edified by reading the soul-stirring testimonies. This being the case, surely the Evangel has the right name. Not only is it Evangel, good news, but it is an evangelist. It goes into thousands of homes and preaches to thousands Can you tnink of people. hundred evangelists doing

much each year as this is doing? Do we remember that the Lord told His disciples to pray that more laborers be sent into the field? I believe this.—If every member of the church would pray earnestly that the Lord would send more laborers into the field, they would soon wake up to the fact that the Evangel great and effective a laborer as could be sent into the harvest field. would also realize that they could help answer their prayer by taking subscriptions and sending this evangelist to new homes. Just think, if every subscriber would get only one new subscriber. It would double the subscription. Now that wouldn't be hard to do. I am sure that every subscriber could get one more.

Now, beloved, let us not think that subscriptions will just flow into the Evangel office like water running down hill. Every one should make an effort for your paper. Yes, your paper, not my paper or Brother Llewellyn's paper alone, but it belongs to the Church of God and every Church of God member should boost it.

Let me insist that each state overseer stir himself up to get under this matter. What would you do on your work if we had no paper? Through till the Assembly.

at Christopher, Ill. There were ten

saved, five sanctified, three received

the Holy Ghost, fifteen added to the church, eight were baptized in

water and a church was set in order

with twenty members, reports P. A.

Just closed a few days meeting

here in which three were saved and sanctified, one reclaimed, one re-

ceived the Holy Ghost according to

Acts 2:4 and three were added to

the church. W. A. Walker, our dis-trict overseer, and wife of Piedmont,

Ala. conducted the meeting. The Lord

blessed him in giving out the Word.

We are but few in number but stand-ing true to the church. Have our new

church house done except sealing and painting, reports Willie Yarbrough,

We have just closed a twelve days

meeting at Pleasant Grove taberna-

cle. The Lord surely did bless. Two

were saved, three sanctified and one

received the Holy Ghost. Brother Lester Lay and Sisters Nell Lovett,

Maggie Free and Willie Maud Stan-

with power. We thank God for such workers. The devil got stirred but

God gave the victory, reports, Etoi

We held a revival here from Aug.

Lord was manifested in a wonderful

and talking in tongues and the organ

was played under the power of the

fied and one received the Holy Ghos

for we heard her talk in tongues

There were several earnest seekers in the altar. Three followed the

There was shouting, dancing

One was saved, one sancti

workers. They gave out the

11th-26th. The presence of

Humphill, Embry, Miss.

Lord in water baptism,

O'Neal, Pittsburg, Ill.

Wedowee, Ala. R. 1.

VICTORY ON THE BATTLEFIELDS

Just closed a five weeks meeting | the midst of the battle here and go

those

N. C.

full of peop

dard were in charge, with other Brother John Floyd and wife and my

Word

the

Evangel means good news, espect the paper you advertise your work The reason that days of meeting, etc. Through the paper you get encouraging reports from other states. Through the paper we all keep in close touch with one another. Can you think of letting it fail? I fancy I hear you say, "NO! Well, we must get under it. We must have subscriptions.

If the state overseers will insist on the district overseers getting into it, also they insist that the pastors take hold of it, and the pastors stir Many have cried, many have shouted up the members and the members solicit among all classes of people; I believe by this concerted effort we may get many subscribers. Why no the pastors put on a special cam paign in the churches?

You have noticed, I suppose, special offer that Brother Llewellyn has made, while the price of the paper is \$1.50, he has made the liberal offer till the Assembly that in clubs of three or more you may receive the Evangel one year for \$1.00. All should take advantage of this to get fifty cents off on your paper. This mean renewals as well as new subscriptions. Fifty cents saved these hard times is fifty cents made.

Many have said, "I wish I could do omething for the Lord's cause, and could help some precious soul." Have you ever thought that as great a work as you can do is to get the Evangel into homes? Get every person you can to reading it. By this you will be the means of awakening souls and getting them prepared for heav-

Pastors, let me insist that you have some special day appointed and call it, EVANGEL DAY, and put on a special campaign for the Evangel. Appoint Sister Mary, Sister Janie, and Sister Lucy. Yes, Brother John and Brother Tom can help in this good

If we can get this great army of men and women, boys and girls, who have proven themselves faithful in the past, interested in this great drive for subscribers, we feel thousands be blest and Satan's bulwarks will soon begin to crumble.

Tell them they can get the Evangel now for \$1.00 a year if three or more will subscribe together. This is good

to Pennsylvania, but we bid them God speed. We would be glad to

us again. The meeting closed with

the Lord's supper and washing the saints' feet. Truly this was a good

time that will long be remembered by

writes R. E. Hamilton, Kannapolis,

We had a wonderful meeting here

There were twenty-three saved, nine sanctified and four baptized with the Holy Ghost. Brother A. H. Tollison

did most of the preaching. The Lord

surely did bless him in giving out the Word. We wish the world was

here have been against us, who now

say this is the way.

We stand true to the church and

elders who stand for the right. We

pray that the Lord may stand by you

all and help you get everything ou

Just closed a two weeks meeting

at Longford, Ga. There was victory in the services from the beginning

self conducted the meeting. Many

were saved, sanctified, filled with the

Holy Ghost and added to the church

we had the Lord's supper and washe

the saints' feet. It was a wonderful service and people were made to

rejoice. We cannot find words to ex

press our appreciation for the ser

vice rendered by Brother and Sister

Floyd. Surely God will reward them

in their work Brother Floyd and

myself have just started a meeting

eight miles north of Jesup, Ga. Pray

that we will have success in the meet

We are thanking and praising God

ing, writes J. B. Sewell, Jesup, Ga.

On the last night of the meeting

Donald, pastor, Townville, S. C.

is unlike God, writes J. M.

ole like him. Some peopl

who attended the

them come back and be with

vided as far as possible. Come and enjoy the presence of the Lord with H. N. Scoggins, state overseer

Free entertainment will be pro-

#### No Longer Members

The Church of God at Cleveland Tenn. convened in business confer

the Holy Ghost and have been added

in order with nineteen members

Brother Duke preached a real good

sermon on the rules and principles

In conference brother Cleve Frank

lin was reccomended as a deacon and

Brother J. H. Childer, was set forth

as an evangelist. The new church

will be known as the Oakdale church

with Sister Lillie Franklin as clerk

Just closed a three weeks meeting

at Alcoa, Tenn. in which many souls

were blessed. Thirty-five were saved

sanctified,

received the Holy Ghost, nineteen

baptized in water and seventeen ad

W. F. Green and Brother Allison.

Truly God did bless in giving out

the Word with power. Workers from

Sevierville and Townsend rendered

good service in the singing and altar

work. On the last night of the ser

vice, we observed the Lord's supper

and washed the saints' feet. The peo

ple of Alcoa and Maryville are look

ing forward to the Church of God

SPECIAL NOTICE

Inasmuch as J. A. Davis has re-

the state of Virginia for the purpose

of entering general evangelistic work

we, the undersigned Executive Coun

and authorize H.B. Simmons as the

Overseer of the State of Virginia and

as the legal authorized successor to

J. A. Davis to fill out his unexpired

We trust that all of the churches

ministers and workers of the state

will give him your hearty coopera

tion. This done by virtue of authority vested in us by the Seventeenth

Annual Assembly of the Churches o

J. S. Llewellyn, Editor and Pub

Conventions In Texas

so widely located, we expect to have

our convention for the eastern sec

tion of Texas at Paris. Oct. 5-7: and

for the western section at Weather-

On account of the churches being

F. J. Lee, General Overseer.

appoint, commission

for which Jesus shed His blood, re

ports W. F. Green, district pastor.

To All Whom This May Concern:

igned his position as overseer

hereby

Executive Council.

ford, Oct. 12-14.

term.

Coaldale, Ala.

Brother Jack Duke set the church

to the church.

of the Church of God.

ded to the church.

The meeting was

ence on Sept. 10, 1923. After due notice had been giver of the time and place, A. J. Tomlinson, Mary J. Tomlinson, Homer Tomlinson, Geo. T. Brouayer, A. J. Lawson and H. H. Irwin were duly

and regularly excluded from membership in the Church of God Due notice is here given that these

parties are no longer members the Church of God.

J. B. Ellis, pastor.

F. G. Chambers, clerk.

#### IN MEMORY OF

HODGE The death angel visited the home of John Hodge Sept. 2, 1923, and claimed their daughter Ruby age 16 years. She was not a member of the church, out was a faithful Sunday student, attending the Baptist Sunday School where her father and mother were members

She will be missed so badly; her vacant chair will be sad to look upon. Many prayers from sad hearts were lifted up in behalf of her, but God loved her best and had a better place

for her in the glory world.

Mother still has a loving arm for Ruby dear. It seemed so sad to say she has gone away; but in the swee by and by she will meet her in the sky She leaves father, mother, one sis er and a host of friends to mourn her death. Her remains were laid to rest in the Bell Cemetery.

A friend, L. H. Bennett.

ENGLAND On July 19, 1923 the death ange visited the home of Eli and England and claimed little Ophal, age 10 months.

It was such a sweet baby, every body loved it so, but Jesus loved it best and saw fit to take it up to that home of rest.

The funeral service was conducted by Brother Joe Shipley, and its re mains were laid to rest in the Shady Grove Cemetery to await till Jesus

Grandmother, Nancy Bryant.

CAMPBELL

The death angel visited the home of Brother and Sister Campbell and claimed their daughter Margaret, age 17 years and 7 months

She was a member of the Church o God at Lynchburg, Va. She was a devoted Christian and a loyal member of the church.

She had been sick for some time bu bore her pain with patience.

Farewell dear Margaret, we mis you and we mourn. But not as one that has no hope. We'll meet you again on that great resurrection morn

A loving sister, F. G. Wiley, Lynchburg, Va.

HICKS The death angel visited the home of

and died May 11, 1923, living only

three weeks. It was a tiny little flower to brighten the home for a few days and then the Lord plucked it for the glory world to be with Jesus. What a confort to have a little one waiting beckoning hands to welcome the dear

The funeral was conducted by the

pastor H. L. Trim. Mrs. H. L. Trim.

BRAYNEAL

The death angel visited the home of Brother and Sister Rodie Brayneal on June 9, and claimed their little girl 9 years of age.

Her death was caused from measles.

She had been healed of whooping cough and she still had faith and wanted to trust in divine healing. The doctor taken her to the hospital. As friends would visit her she would ask them to pray for her and let her sleep, so they did. She said that was what her parents did. During suffering she would sing and pray. Oh. she was such a sweet child, all who knew her had great love for her.

The funeral was conducted by Broth er Lawson and she was laid to rest in the Union Grove Cemetery to await the coming of Jesus.

Yes, that will be a happy meeting, When we meet up in the sky: And live with God forever,

Where we never more will die Her aunt, Ollie Hopkins, Guntown, Miss.

STOGSDILL

On August 24, 1923, the cold hand of death visited the home of Brother Stogsdill, and claimed his loving wife Some time before her death, while lying upon her bed, suffering with pain, she sent for the saints to pray for her. The saints prayed for her and God wonderfully saved her soul. Then in a day or two following desired to be added to the church Quite a number of saints gathered around her bedside for service and she was added to the Church at Joplin. She was continually speaking of how she would work for God and His Church if He would spare her life.

She bore her suffering with much patience. Just a day or two before she died, she raised her hands eyes heavenward and said, "Isn't sweet to be saved and ready to

She leaves to mourn her loss, hus band, and one child who have the sympathy of the entire community was conducted Brother E. M. Meade, pastor of the church at Joplin, and her body was laid to rest in the Fairview Cemetery to awake the resurrection morning.

A brother, J. M. Viney.

THOMPSON

Sister Pearl Thompson departed this life Sept 2, 1923, age 17 years and months.

Several months ago she was con verted, later sanctified, baptized water and became a member of the Church of God. Her life has been a bright testimony.

Her death was caused by an automobile accident. Her last words were

that she was ready to go. She leaves a husband, father, moth er and a host of relatives and friends who have our sympathy. She has gone but is not forgotten, and we'll meet her again where there will be no

The funeral was conducted by her pastor, assisted by Brothers John Stanley and W. H. Hensley.

Oscar S. Carter, Kermit, W. Va.

### BUCKLE

On July 9, 1923, the death angel visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. Matt Buckle of Brigton Mo., and claimed their little darling Ruth Emmagene age 2 days.

All was done for her that loving hands could do, but all in vain. God called her to dwell with his angels

above. She is survived by father, mother, one brother and sister and a host of

The funeral was conducted Brother O. S. Swadley.

How sad it is to say farewell, To those we love so dear; But in that home all will be well, And our hearts no more will fear.

Live on dear Ruth on that beautiful And we'll meet thee where partings

come no more. Papa and mama weep not for me, For I'm waiting in glory for thee.

A loved one, Mr. Noah E. Presley.

#### Report of North Dakota State Assembly

To the Evangel Readers—Greetings: The North Dakota State Assembly onvened at Golden Valley, Aug.

The Lord was present from beginning and the power of the Holy Ghost fell in a special way. There was much rejoicing and many said they never saw it on that fashion before, and one received the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Brother Linn, pastor of the Golden Valley Church, gave the address of welcome, which made us all feel at home. The Lord blessed all the min isters in dealing with the subjects assigned to them. The Indians were well represented at the Assembly. Brother James Holding Eagle, ar Indian preacher, addressed the Assembly on the subject of "The Reservation and its needs." He stated that the Indians needed three things: first, the "Bread of Life," and made

services at this place for some time, during this time nine have received their baby.

Brother and Sister Hicks and claimed on the Reservation to break the bread of life to them; second, a plot

The meeting closed with hand of ground on which to build a church and school house; third, a school for the children. Surely the Church will come to the rescue of the Indians and their children.

There are bright prospects for the Church of God in Dakota, as there are folks here who are standing four square for the Church; and have an experience that is snow white, blood red, sky blue and are as straight as a min.  $W_{\mathbb{R}}$  would be glad to keep him, a gun barrel. With an experience but others need him as well as we. like this we can surely go over the

top for God. The Assembly was well attended and the Dove of Peace hovered over from the beginning to the end, and ended with everybody feeling that it had been good for them to be there. state.
Yours in the service of the Mas-

John Attey.

#### Annual State Convention of West Virginia

The Annual State Convention the Churches of God convened Huntington, W. Va. Aug. 15-19.

People were there from every dis-trict in the state. They came shout ing the victory, and went away more determined to work for the Master.

The Convention opened with songs and prayers and an address of welcome by L. C. Davis, which was re ciprocated by B. E. Drummond. How the power of God did fall and saints did shout and dance. The Overseer was made to rejoice and we were glad to see the Lord blessing his labors.

The second day there was an ap pointment of committees, and reports from the Churches of God in Perfect love and harmony prevailed. At night O. W. Thomas was wonderfully blessed in giving out the Word. How we love him. We praise the Lord for the Church of God, and for ministers who stand for her teachings.

The third day our State Overseen gave his address and the Lord blessed and made it a blessing. We believe the Lord sent him to W. Va. A sermon was preached on "The Sweetness and Power of Fellowship by O. S. Carter. (read Phil. 2:1-16.) Truly God's promise, "Open your mouth wide and I will fill it," was fulfilled in him.

"The Church a Distinct Govern was well handled by E. C Smith. (Text 1 Cor.12:28.) He brough out the Church and her government so plain to the people.

"Christian Stability" was the sub ject preached on at night by F. W. Rollins, (Text Heb. 3:14.) He admonished us to stand steadfast for the Church and her teachings. Several were in the altar at the close. On the fourth day "God's Plan for the Support of the Ministry" was made plain to us by L. L. Vaught; (Scripture lesson Gen. 28:1-12.) and how he intends for His ministers to be taken care of. We believe they will be better taken care of in the

future. James Cline spoke on the subject This Must be It." How the glory of the Lord shone in his face as spoke about the signs following His people; especially those Church of God; and that this must be

"it." He brought it in so good.

The subject of "Missions" was pre sented by B. E. Drummond; (Text John 4:35) and the people responded with an offering of \$27.22 for Foreign

B. E. Hicks evalained "Evangel" could go in homes where preachers could not, and how it paved the way for the gospel to be preached. Brother Hicks is a young

"Divine Healing" was preached or at night by O. W. Thomas. A goodly number came forward to be prayed for, the Lord touched and healed them and they shouted and danced Then wonderful testimonies followed of the Lord healing all manner diseases. It's just like the Lord.

We were glad to see Sunday con but sorry it was the last day of the Convention. After Sunday W. M. Rumler talked on "Boost the Sunday School." He admonished par ents to take their children to Sunday school, and train them in the Church of God doctrine. How we all did enjoy and appreciate this talk

L. L. Vaught talked on the "Orphanage Work" in the afternoon (Scripture lesson Ex. 22:22-23.) how God did come down and melt our hearts with such enthusiasm to help the orphans as I never saw her After his talk the people were given a chance to help most every one responded, making an offering of \$53.00. May the Lord bless these dear children. The power of God was manifested

in the night service, and the building was full of people. How the testimonies did ring of the brethren and sisters who were glad they came. The testimony service was followed

by a sermon from our State Over seer, E. L. Simmons, from the text-1 Tim. 3:15. "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." How the Lord did melt our hearts together as he admonished us, and spoke encouraging words to the ministers of how they had worked together in love and harmony for the past two years, and of how the Lord had blessed them in their There was not a dry eye in that vas audience. We were crying because we loved Brother Simmons ar thought perhaps this might be

The meeting closed with hand shakes and good-byes. How it touched our hearts for we were almost sure we would all never meet again. When we bade Brother Simmons goodbye it called to our mind the time that Paul called the elders from Ephesus to Miletus; instructed them to be true and when they were to part, (see Acts 20:37) all wept sore and fell on Paul's neck and kissed

but others need him as well as we.
The Convention closed with hearts full of love and unity. How the Lord can cause us to love each oth er. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John There was so much love and All the saints everywhere pray that the Lord will continue to bless the that sinners were made to exclaim, efforts that are being made in this "I never saw such love and unity

> We are glad the Convention was held at this place and hope it will be here next year if Jesus tarries. All were well cared for, and every one declared it was the best State Convention they ever attended; and I thought it was almost equal to the General Assembly in love and lowship. We are looking forward to the time when we will meet around the Throne where it will be one unending day throughout eternity, and

where we will never say goodbye.

John H. Winters.

#### General Overseer F. J. Lee, Cleveland, Tenn.

#### **General Secretary** E. J. Boehmer, Cleveland, Tenn.

**State Overseers** Ala., G. C. Dunn, Box 38, Pratt City,

Ala. Ark., E. C. Scarbrough, Nettleton, Ark. Bah., Milton Padgett, Nassau, N. P. Col., O. R. Rouse, Raton, New Mexico. Fla., John L Stephens, 2803-18th Ave.,

Tampa, Fla. W. Latimer, Spring Place, Ga. Ill. D. P. Barnett, West Frankfort,

111. J. B. Ellis, Cleveland, Tenn. T. S. Payne, 2803-18th Ave.,

Tampa, Fla. Md., Paul Walker, Princess Anne. Md. Mich. E. Haynes, Cleveland, Tenn. Miss. E. Haynes, Cleveland, Tenn.

Mo. J. M. Viney, 831 Virginia, Ave., Joplin, Mo. New Mex., O. R. Rouse, Raton, New

N. C. S. W. Latimer, Spring Place, North Dak., John Attey, Box 426,

Golden Valley, N. D. Ohio, W. G. Rembert, 419 E. Union St., Circleville, Ohio.

Okla., John Burk, Sapuipa, Okla. Pa., H. W. Poteat, R. 52, Hilliards, Pa. S. C., J. W. Culpepper, R. 3, Lake Park, Ga.

Tenn., M. W. Letsinger, R. 1, Bying-Tex., H. N. Scoggins, Box 193, La

Va., H. B. Simmons, Cleveland, Tenn. W. Va., E. L. Simmons, Cleveland,

Tenn.

#### Wants to Work for Jesus

Greetings to All the Dear Evangel Readers:

I am a member of the Church of God. I gave my heart to God about seven years ago when I was only a small child. I lived in the Baptist church for two or three years, later I joined the United Brethren but didn't remain a member long. I then went back to the Baptist, wandered from one place to another. We moved from Tennessee to Ware Shoals, South Carolina. There we attended the holiness meetings. Sister Nettie Hauvey came and run a series of meetings. I began to see my condition and to gct hungry for a deeper experience of salvation. I began to pray that I might receive light on His Word and the Holy Ghost. Later the holiness people were running a tent meeting at Ware Shoals. I would take great interest in helping pray for the seekers at the altar. One night while praying for others at the altar the Holy Ghost came down and filled my soul with glory. Praise the Lord. I also spoke in

other tongues according to Acts 2:4. The devil tried to make me doubt that I had the Holy Ghost, while we can see while Jesus was on earth, how the devil tried to overcome Him while He was fasting, He became very hungry; the devil tempting Him said 'If thou be the Son of God command these stones to be made bread." But we see how Jesus spoke to him and said "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

I've often heard folks say when you're saved you are added to the Church of God. But I was saved about six years before I was added to the Church of God. Thank God, though I was added to the church when I received light on it. I feel like I'm established now. Bless his sweet name

I want to do more for my blessed Savior. I fear God has no use for a Christian that will sit down and do nothing for him. I believe God wants me to work in the altar. I have been a teacher in Sunday school for three

or four years.

I would like to go to Cleveland to help in the orphans home if it is God's will. I feel like I would like that work. I love to teach and work with

Pray that I may be healed as I am very weak and that I will stay humble at Jesus' feet.

Maryville, Tenn.

Florida State Camp Meeting WIMAUMA, FLORIDA OCT. 11---21 INCLUSIVE.

John L. Stevens, Overseer

A Great Time is Expected

Brother and Sister McLain were for the way he is blessing at Oak-with us nine days. There was much dale, Ala. Brother Cleve Franklin

sorrow when they had to leave us in and others have been holding regular

# **Ideal Church**

(Continued from page 1)

inspired Apostle used "Now we comsolemn words. mand ye, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which they received from us."

Some one said if people fell dead in these days for lying to the Holy Ghost there wouldn't be enough left to bury the dead. This of course, is pretty broad, but men and women are guilty in these days of lying to the Holy Ghost. They make their vows and fail to pay them. They make solemn promises to God and man and fail to perform the obligation that they have taken on, and that is a great obstruction to real successful Christian work in these last days.

Perhaps some will say that it would never do for such things to happen in these days, as it would scare everybody away from the church. It may be true that it would scare some hypocrites and grafters away, for God intends it to scare some people and keep them out until they get right with Him.

"And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things." Acts 5:11. No doubt if there were any liars, hypocrites or men of corrupt practices around there who had thought of joining the church soon, it kept them away. They of course would have at once concluded that such a church as that was not a healthy place for men of their stripe. But if there were any that loved the truth, and were in dead down right earnest about trying to get to heaven, and felt the need of good company, it had a very different effect on them.

Strange indeed, that the first shame and reproach brought on the early Church was on account of finance. Much heartache and trouble has been caused on account of this one thing. It gave Judas trouble, it gave Ananias trouble and has given many others trouble. It seemed at first glance that the Church would suffer greatly on account of these things that had happened, but instead of them ceasing their activities, they continued their work for God and His Church, confidently expecting God to vindicate His own. Wicked men might have hissed at them and looked on them with shame and contempt and said that this new fangled religion is not much after all: while they were good to the poor and very attentive in caring for the orphans, providing food and shelter for the neglected, yet it was all for a show, or for somebody's financial gain. But from above all the shame and disgrace and criticism that could be heaped on them; they proceeded with their work and God demonstrated His power with them in a marvelous way.

"And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and

Model, Primitive people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem. bringing sick folks and them which were vexed with unclean spirits; and they were healed every one." Acts 5:12-16.

> We see that believers the more added to the church multitudes both men and women and marvelous results followed immediately. In view of these facts the church of today should cease her compromising with sin, raise a high wall and dig a deep ditch be tween the church and ungodly men and women; keep herself pure, and boldly follow in the wake of the early Church, then wonderful success shall be ours

> > We are not to forget that

there arose some question about bringing the uncircumcised Gentiles into the Church after they had believed and accepted Jesus Christ, and they brought the question up for settlement. Then Peter presents his argument in favor of Christian liberty. It will be observed that this question was brought in by the Pharisees, and Paul described them by saying that they were false brethren, privily brought in or who had crept in unaware, to spy out the liberty which we so richly enjoy. This implies that false and unworthy members may gain access to the church, therefore, we have instructions how to deal with them. This question that was calculated to provide and scatter the true children of God was brought up for consideration, after the apostles and elders had convened for this purpose. Considerable disputing had taken place and then Peter presented his wonderful argument for the liberty in the spirit. Paul and Barnabas gives their testimony; finally, James delivers his sentence of their formerly declaration or decree in writing, and sends it forth to all the churches by the hand of certain individuals delegated to represent the church and its decisions. If this had occured in our day, they would have been immediately accused of making laws and decrees contrary to the word of God, for the reason that for centuries the law of circumcision had been in full force and effect. And of course some one would have immediately raised question that this was not God's Divine Law, and that these apostles and elders had no right to make any such ruling or decree, yet at the same time it was said. "For it seemed are glad that in this Holy Ghost dispensation He can speak to the church, lead and direct in

the affairs of the Church. wonders wrought among the (To be continued in next Issue.)

#### THE TIME FOR ALABASTER BOXES

Mrs. Geo. Camp

myself the question, Why is it that people keep their "alabaster boxes" scaled until a person lies cold in death before they break them open, when they are filled with the precious ointment that would soothe most and heal the aches and pains of the heart,

we e it poured upon them? There are many people in this world ours today who are, bearing their urdens and loads of care without a murmur but are hungering and thirsting after the wholesome and substantial food that is essential to sustain life; were it given them. The cravings of their heart would be well satisfied, for it contains the gredients that are delicious to the taste.

The name of the food is love and friendship and the ingredients are the simple things, as kind words and kind thoughts. They are very little things but they have a powerful in-

fluence over anyone's life. The only consolation they have to sweeten the bitterness of their cup f sorrow when the forebodings of the future seem so dark and cloudy hem, even though every one on earth has forsaken and turned against them, is, that there is one who loves and cares for them and that He will never forsake them as long as they trust in Him. But life is such in some cases that they feel as though God Himself had turned from them.

Many a sad soul could be saved from a fit of despondency and self destruction by kind words uttered by some thoughtful person whose timely arrival saved them from committing a rash act about to be wrought by their own hand. This act might have been the fatal shot or stab that would have proven fatal and ended their untimely

This thought brings to my mind a story told by an old gentleman of how he was saved from such an act that no doubt would have ended his life, when the forebodings of the present and future life seemed so dark and aloomy, by the simple words "please don't do that," uttered by a lady in a tender and pathetic tone. He told her that no one cared for him and he had nothing to live for and desired to die. But by kind persuasions and tender pleadings she saved him from carry ing out his plans by consoling him that he had, at least, one true friend.

She also spoke to him of one who as a friend to the friendless and homeless, and about his soul's salvation and making his peace with God. By her kind persuasion he gave his heart to God and became chaplain in the Salvation Army, to which she

He ministered faithfully for several years, doing all he could for downtrodden and sincursed humanity. cheer the burdened spirit. Flowers When it came time for him to lay on the coffin casts no fragrance back aside his armor and go to receive his on the weary way.

is a wonderful person. He is not an

influence, or mind, or breath as some

think, but is the third person in the Godhead, the wonderful trinity. He is

just as much a person as God the Father, or God the Son. Jehovah is

the only God existing eternally in three persons, the Father, the Son and

from the teaching of Scriptures that

He is the active agent in the great

I often wonder and sometimes ask reward for his services he had ren dered in this world he did not wish to die then, for he said at the time when the future seemed so gloomy he had not cared to live, but by his benefactress of whom he unceasingly spoke of, had found so much happi ness in this world for him and the world seemed so much brighter and there was so much he thought could do if he were permitted to live a little longer. His last words were: "If the land of bliss Leyond this vale of tears was far more happier and more blissful I would cheerfully resign and willingly submit to God's divine will."

> It is a sad mistake that is made when we keep our "alabaster boxes" sealed until a poor soul lies cold in death, before we speak one

kind word or do a Rind deed for them. Just take this thought into consider ation for a little while. How would we feel to be in some God forsaken land, or even among those that know us, if we were shunned as though we to associate with us in our daily walks of life, and then to lie upon sick ted perfectly helpless, no one t bathe our fevered brow, no one to give us a cup of cold water to cool parched lips, no one to speak one comforting word to our unhappy and sorrowful soul. Could we but realize for one brief moment how heart-rend ing deplorable and sad any one's life is in that last moment which only death is a welcome and sweet relief to their tortured soul, our hearts would surely be filled with tender love and sympathy for those whose feeling lies buried, and the broken chord of awakened by kindness.

Let us not keep the "alabaster boxes" of our love and tenderness sealed until our friends are dead. Fill their lives with sweetness. Speak approving and cheering words while their ears can hear them and while their hearts can be thrilled and made happier. The kind things we mean to say when they are gone, let us say be fore they go. The flowers we mean to send for their coffin let us send to brighten and sweeten their homes be fore they leave them. If my friends have "alabaster boxes" laid away full of fragrant perfumes of sympathy and affections, which they intend to break over my body, I would much rather they would bring them out in my wearied and troubled hours, and open them, that I may be refreshed and cheered while I need them. I would rather have a plain coffin, without a flower, a funeral or eulogy, than a life without the sweetness of love and sympathy.

Let us learn to anoint our friends beforehand for their burial. Post-mortem kindness does

he quickened, (brought to life) who

were dead in trespasses and sins.

fallen condition; dead, out of com

prayed, an alien from God, without

Jesus bought us with His own

covenant. Heb. 9:20. "Withou shedding of blood is no remission." Heb. 9:22. We find that Jesus shed

is the life. Gen. 9:4 says the blood is the life of the flesh. Somehow

through the virtue of that blood shed on Calvary, God the Father, for-

gives and God the Holy Ghost, quick-ens the dead soul to life, brings

it is His will (through preaching,

reading the Word or otherwise) for

His children to be sanctified, 1 Thes.

4:3. Jesus shed His blood that we

'When the consecration is complete which the Holy Ghost helps us to make, "For we know not what we

the Spirit itself maketh intercession

for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." Oh, how blessed it is!

When we pray through he helps us to believe He sanctifies with the

blood of Christ and then witnesses

Then the Bible commands us to

be filled with the Spirit. Eph. 5:18

to it. Heb. 10:14, 15.

might be sanctified. Heb. 13:12.

munion with God; lost,

God or hope in the world.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND HIS WORK

The Holy Ghost, or the Holy Spirit, His work in Eph. 2:1, "And you hath

When Jesus assembled together with His disciples He commanded them to not depart from Jerusalem but wait for the promise of the Father and they should be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. Acts 1:4, 5. This promise of the Father is for everyone. The honest heart will begin to seek and will soon be offering to God the sacrifice of praise. The Holy Ghost fills the temole and takes the tongue and gins to speak as He gives utterance. Acts 2:4.

We learn by God's Word that He the Holy Ghost, can be grieved. In Eph. 4:30 Paul tells us not to grieve the Holy Spirit. I fear that He has een grieved many times. In 1 Thes :19 Paul says to "Quench not the I am afraid He has been quenched many times, even by Pentecostal people. How we need to watch and pray and keep our eyes We should never do anyon God. thing to lift up self nor desire anything but God's glory and be in the hands of the Holy Ghost. We know from the teaching of God's Word that God sends His power on us by the Holy Ghost. Jesus says, "ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." Acts

How many fail to let the Holy Ghost have His way because He puts His power on them to do something they don't understand. We must remember that His ways are above our ways and that His ways are past finding out. Rom. 11:33.

Then there are some who criticize those who have demonstrations that they can't understand. If the devil can keep them at that for a while they will become cool and powerless. They will criticize more and more for they are getting further and further from the power house.

The Holy Ghost is the active agent in our healing. Jesus suffered the stripes to be put on His back but it is the Holy Ghost who brings the quickening healing power into our body. Rom. 8:11. Jesus told the He cast out devils by the Spirit of God.

When Jesus comes for His saints the Holy Ghost will quicken our mor tal bodies and enable us to meet our Savior. Rom. 8:11. He is our Comforter. John 14:16, 17, 26. He calls laborers into the ministry and directs. Acts 13:2, 4; 20:28. No man can call Jesus the Christ but by the Holy He makes Christ real to us. The holy men of God spake as they is our teacher for Jesus says in John 14:26 that when He is come He will teach us all things and bring all things to our remembrance. He will guide us into all truth. He does not honor Himself but He honors Father and the Son and will show us things to come. He glorifies Jesus for He takes the things of God and shows them unto us.

Jesus said, "All things that Father hath are mine." John 16:15. Again we see Him as an active agent in the Godhead and this blessed trinity working together for man's redemption and eternal happiness and the healing of our body He is the active agent in the God head. Jesus said, "All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever shall blaspheme. But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghos hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation: Because they said, He hath an clean spirit." Mark 3:28-30. Pharisees had said that Jesus out devils by the prince of devils Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost. It seems blood and thus sealed the everlasting the teaching of Scriptures that covenant. Heb. 9:20. "Without Mark 3:22.

We learn from the Scriptures that the Holy Ghost is the active agent "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. \* \* \* And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of His flesh for the life of the world. The waters." Gen. 1:1-2. "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by Jesus and the Father to those hos love God and keep His commandments. John 14:15, 16. Jesus the blood of the Lord were the heavens made; is the life. Gen. 9:4 says the blood and it is the Holy Ghost whom God and it is the Holy Ghost whom God the Father and God the Son sent to make this wonderful salvation real in our body and spirit which are God's. 1 Cor. 6:20. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Ghost. Let us honor Him by letting Him have His way, that He may guide us into all truth and that the miracle work ing power of God may be shown by Him through us that God may glorified.

#### BIBLE SCHOOL

We are getting many inquiries about the Bible School. We announced in the Evangel that the School would start after the Assembly. At last we have decided that the date should be November 12,

The School was a real success last year, but we are expecting a better School for next term. So I would be glad that every one who is expecting to attend would write at once, so we can send you an application blank to fill out.

F. J. Lee.

#### Wonderfully God Blessed at Twila

This church was organized in the Mountain Assembly about six years ago and came into the Church of God with headquarters at Cleveland, Tenn. last January when G. A. Fore and Starling Smith, ministers of the Church of God came in. It is composed of about sixty members. It is situated in Creech Mining Camps and is near two other mining camps. It made a change from the Mountain Assembly to the Church of God, with headquarters at Cleveland, Tenn., almost unanimously and has run with victory until A. J. T. pulled off. That jarred her some, but she prayed to God to lead her on, and God opened up a revival beginning on the second Sunday in August, which closed with There were several saved, sanctified and filled Holy Ghost. Methodist preacher who received his baptism after fore the Lord until after o'clock one night. The dance was large and the behavior very The "signs" are following and the sick are being healed; some almost raised from the dead. There were three baptized in water and others are to follow soon. The first week of the meeting was conducted by Starling Smith and the last week by G. A. Fore.

We consider Jesus the great head of the Church, and feel that for any man to claim that he is its head is an impostor, intruding on the church. fulfilling the Scripture where Jesus said they would come saying, "I am Christ." We are trying to worship Christ." We are trying to worship God in "spirit and in truth," and keep in unity waiting for the "rapture." So we want all the Evangel family to remember us in your pray-

Yours in the battle till Jesus

Starling Smith, pastor. Williamsburg, Ky.

#### District Convention

The Logan District Convention convened at Logan, W. Va., Aug. 23-26. It would be almost useless to try to describe this great meeting. It was indeed wonderful. God did graciously bless in this gathering. We had a splendid program, which was enjoyed by every one present. E. L. Simmons, our state overseer, was chairman of this convention, and we had several ministers from other districts on our program. All were present except one, and I am sure it he knew what a great time we had he would deeply regret he was

The Entertainment Committee wonderfully filled their places, and nice good homes were provided for each one and they were made to feel free Many expressed their and good. gratitude for being in this convention and I am sure enjoyed having this in their town. We, as a district, covet your prayers that we may stand true to Jesus and always be saying or doing something that will glorify

Your brother in Christ E. C. Smith, district overseer.

#### Keep Pressing On

We are thanking God for the victory He gave us at Ft. Payne, Ala. The meeting was in charge of J. M. Hartline, Mattie Buckalew and the writer. God wonderfully blessed in giving out the Word. The town was stirred and the devil was aroused, and great threats were made, but we just got down on our faces and cried out to God, and, as the apostle said, the place was shaken; and God gave us much boldness to preach the Word, so we just held the gospel gun on the enemy until he was back; souls prayed through to victory and talked in tongues as they always do when they get the Holy Ghost. Two received the Holy Ghost. and some were saved. We are look ing for greater things to come here in the future.

Great crowds came out to hear the Word. There are hungry souls here. This town numbers about three thouand people.

We thank God for the big hearted police who stood by us during the meeting. May God bless them their courtesy in standing by the

We know the Church of God is right, so let us lose no time but keep pressing on, jump into the front ranks and keep firing the gospel gun until this battle is ended. Souls are going to destruction by the The people of Alabama mean to stand true and keep on the

We expect to run another meeting here soon, and covet the prayers of the saints that God will help us.

Yours for the Church of God. J. S. Douglas, district overseer, Fort Payne, Ala.

#### about the new birth and then bears witness with their spirit that they are the children of God. Rom. 8:16. The Holy Ghost also convinces or "In the beginning was the Word convicts the world (world here means every Christian) of righteousness. So

--FOR A---

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### good to the Holy Ghost." We

and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth." Psa. 36:6. "By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens.' We learn from the Bible that the Holy Ghost had His part in

the creation, as well as the Father and the Son.

and the Word was with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." John 1:1, 3, 14. "The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life." Job 33:4.

At the baptism of Christ, God the Father sent the Holy Ghost on Him in bodily shape like a dove and a voice from heaven said, "Thou art my beloved Son." So we see the God-head there and find the Father honoring the Holy Ghost by sending Him on His Son whom He loved and hon-

In Luke 3:22 we find the Holy Ghost as the active agent in bringing our great Redeemer into the world. In Luke 1:35 we read, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall over shadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

The Holy Ghost is also an active agent in man's conversion or regene-ration. John 16:8 says, "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin." Gen. 6:3 shows that He strives with sinners. Then if the sinner repents and confesses his sins God is faithful and just to forgive, and the Holy Ghost witnesses to it and thus makes us to know it. Of course the sinner must believe that God for Christ's sake does forgive, that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb.

Then we have another picture

The Eighteenth Annual Assembly of the Churches of God Will Convene at Cleveland, Tennessee, November 1---7 Inclusive, 1923. --- F. J. LEE, General Overseer, Presiding---